



EXHIBIT 3
DATE Jan 28, 2011
HB 6

1515 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620-1800 • fax 406.444.0266 • tel. 406.444.0915 • <http://mtnhp.org>

January 28, 2011

Chairman McNutt and Members of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee:

Since 2006, the Montana Natural Heritage Program has been mapping wetlands and riparian areas with the goal of creating statewide wetland and riparian mapping. Additionally, the State of Montana has identified wetlands as one of the 14 Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework data layers that are necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. The completion of wetland and riparian mapping within the Lower and Middle Musselshell watersheds will fill an important information gap and contribute to this ongoing statewide mapping effort.

Montana's waters are its most valuable natural resource. The wetlands and riparian areas within Montana's watersheds provide critical functions including the cycling of nutrients, attenuation of floods, maintenance of stream flows, recharging of groundwater, and habitat for fish and wildlife. This project proposes to map wetlands and riparian areas within the Lower and Middle Musselshell River basins. The mapping will provide the basic wetland and riparian data needed to effectively implement watershed protection and planning.

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition has achieved important accomplishments in improving water quality and water quantity within the Musselshell Watershed. The Musselshell Watershed Coalition recognizes the importance of wetlands within their watershed as areas of natural water storage that provide a valuable contribution of water to meet irrigation needs. Stakeholders in the watershed have committed to improved management of water flows and water storage in the watershed. Complete wetland and riparian mapping will provide these stakeholders with additional information to assist in effective water management.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter of support from Bill Milton, Musselshell Watershed Coalition.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Newlon
Project Manager
Montana Natural Heritage Program

Musselshell Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 629
Roundup, MT 59072

Water Users Associations
Upper Musselshell
Deadman's Basin
Delphia Melstone Canal

Conservation Districts
Upper Musselshell
Lower Musselshell
Petroleum
Garfield

**Mosby Musselshell
Watershed Group**

Central Montana RCD

*"Working together to
care for the water of the
Musselshell River."*

An ongoing collaboration of
water user groups, conserva-
tion districts, with local,
state, and federal agencies,
committed to the best pos-
sible water management
on the Musselshell River.

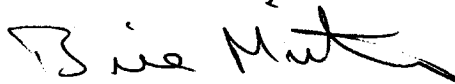
May 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition (MWA) supports the 2010 DNRC
RRGL grant application submitted by the Montana Natural Heritage
Program to inventory wetlands in the middle and lower Musselshell
Watershed. The MWC respects the importance of wetlands as a form of
natural water storage in the landscape that while supporting many species
of concern, also contributes available water for meeting irrigation needs.

The MWC also appreciates the need to be involved in information
gathering initiatives of this type to ensure our members have an informed
and active voice in future management of these important resources on
private land.

Thank you for your consideration.



Bill Milton
Facilitator for the MWC

Fort Peck WaterUser Association



Box 401
233 Cascade Suite #9
Wolf Point Montana
59201
406-650-8046

January 25, 2011

Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
On Long Range Planning:

I am writing this letter in support of Fort Peck Tribes RRGL application to install canal liner on a portion of an irrigation canal on the Fort Peck Irrigation Project. This is a very important project and will save countless gallons of precious Montana water. It is a follow up to a grant that was approved by your committee two years ago. The canal lining that was installed last spring with funding from your committee was a huge success. The water savings was considerable and the land adjacent to the canal is profitable again. The BIA, Fort Peck Tribes and the Fort Peck Water Users are trying to improve the overall condition of the Fort Peck Irrigation Project and the RRGL program is a huge piece of the overall plan.

Thank You for the past support and consideration of this application that is being presented.

Sincerely
Robert C Anderson
Business Administrator
406/650/8046

P O Box 823, Troy, Montana 59935

(406) 295-4151

FAX (406)295-4540

THE CITY OF TROY

Donald C. Banning, Mayor

COUNCIL

Phillip Fisher
Fran McCully
Gary Rose
Loretta Jones

January 27, 2011

Representative Dave Kasten, Chairman
Long Range Planning Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT. 59620

Re: City of Troy- Water System Improvements Phase III

Chairman Kasten;

The City of Troy Water system has over 288 % leakage in the distribution system. Approximately 60% of the old steel mains have been replaced. During the construction which replaced the mains many leaks were found in the steel pipe. Because the soils are so gravelly leaks do not surface. Leak detection has not been successful. The only solution to reduce water losses is to replace the remaining 10,000 feet of water main.

Requested funding will be leveraged with \$25,000 of Water Department reserves and a \$500,000 WRDA grant to replace 50% of the remaining water mains.

Water and sewer rates are very high in the City. Total debt is nearly \$4.4 million. The median household income is one of the lowest in the State. As water mains are replaced the amount of water pumped decreases, which results in reduced costs of operation. This reduction helps offset higher electrical and other operation costs. With these reductions the City has been able to minimize rate increases. Unless additional water mains are replaced rates will increase, a serious concern for the elderly, under employed and unemployed.

On behalf of the City I am urging the Committee to recommend funding of the Troy application and all others, as a benefit to the citizen's of Montana in these tough economic seasons.

Sincerely;

Don Banning, Mayor